

ELIZABETH STORRS—HEIRS OF.

[To accompany bill H. R. 596.]

DECEMBER 12, 1856.

Mr. BROOM, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of William L. Storrs, submit the following report :*

That the petitioner, who is chief justice of the State of Connecticut, in his petition, under oath, states the following facts : That he is the son of Lemuel and Elizabeth Storrs ; that his father, as he has been always informed and verily believes, was an orderly sergeant in the revolutionary war, in a company raised in 1776, and served as such for a period of six months ; that afterwards, in the year 1777, he was appointed assistant commissary, and served as such to the end of the war, under Colonel Henry Champion and Jeremiah Wadsworth, and in the year 1783 (October 5) married the daughter of Colonel Henry Champion, and that his said father died in the year 1816.

Stephen Foote, a revolutionary soldier, swears that he was a neighbor of said Storrs, and knew him well during the Revolution, and knows that he was six months sergeant in 1776, and afterwards was assistant commissary under Colonel Henry Champion, and continued in that department until the close of the war, and said Storrs married a daughter of Colonel H. Champion.

John R. Watrous, a surgeon in the Revolution, and a pensioner, swears that he knew Lemuel Storrs well, and knows that he served six months as orderly sergeant in 1776, under John Isham, captain of the Connecticut militia ; that in the year 1777 the said Storrs continued, according to the best of his recollection, in the business of an assistant commissary until the close of the war, and afterwards married a daughter of Colonel Henry Champion, under whom he acted, and was an active and efficient officer.

It appears from an original letter, marked A, and filed in the case, addressed to " Colonel Henry Champion, D. C. G. P.," by the said Lemuel Storrs, and dated December 9, 1779, that Storrs was then engaged as assistant commissary.

The records of Connecticut, imperfect as they are, furnish evidence of the service of Storrs, from June 28, 1780, to December 7, 1781. (See paper marked B.)

Thus it is satisfactorily shown to the committee, not only by affidavits of persons having knowledge of the facts to which they testify, but also by documents and authenticated extracts from the records of Connecticut, which show conclusively that Lemuel Storrs served several years as assistant commissary in the Revolution.

It satisfactorily appears to the committee, by the affidavit of the minister having charge of the church records, and of those who knew them at the time of marriage, that said Lemuel Storrs and Elizabeth Champion were married on the 5th day of October, 1783. (See papers marked C and E.)

From the brief marked D, furnished from the Pension Office, it appears that the only question raised by the department was, whether the service of Storrs was of a *civil* or *military* character. Your committee conceive that that question improperly arises in this case, inasmuch as by the resolution of the Continental Congress of the 22d of August, 1780, all persons or officers to whom public property was intrusted were made subject to martial law; from which it would appear that Storrs held his office not in a civil but in a military character; and, indeed, in this very brief the military character of his service is conceded.

The committee, being satisfied that the evidence sufficiently proves several years' service of said Storrs as assistant commissary during the Revolution, report a bill for the pension due for said service.